GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:207
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2005
PROCUREMENT OF COARSE GRAINS
Kripalani Shri Srichand

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) does not procure coarse grain(Bajra) directly from the farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Food Corporation of India depends on State level agencies for the purchase of coarse grains;

(d) if so, whether considerable time is taken in the clearance/disposal of payments as a result of this practice;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to direct the Food Corporation of India to purchase coarse grains directly from the farmers to avoid the delay in payment;

(f) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government thereon; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) -

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) & (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 207 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 8.8.2005 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a), (b) & (c): Procurement of coarsegrains, including bajra, from farmers under price support operations is presently being entirely undertaken by the State Governments and their Agencies in view of the larger outreach of State Governments/Agencies and the FCI`s focus on the procurement of wheat and paddy/rice.

(d): The FCI takes over the quantity of procured coarsegrains required for distribution under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and arranges for disposal of the remaining quantity of coarsegrains through tender immediately after the closure of the procurement period. The State Governments have informed that payments to farmers are being made promptly by the procuring agencies.

(e): Does not arise.

(f) & (g): The Government of India assists the State Governments in availing timely and adequate credit from Banks to enable the procuring agencies to make payments to farmers on time. Advance funds are also being released to State Governments by the FCI for undertaking coarsegrains procurement, wherever necessary. The Government of India reimburses all expenditure incurred by the State Governments in the procurement of coarsegrains.